

amendments are believed to place this application in condition for allowance, as discussed by Examiner Sharma and the undersigned on October 14, 2000, as discussed below. Accordingly, entry of the above amendments in this application is respectfully requested.

The applicants thank Examiner Sharma for the courtesies extended during telephone interviews conducted on October 10, 2000 and October 14, 2000. The substance of the discussion during those interviews is incorporated in the following remarks.

Claims 1, 2 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,010,973 (Brown '973).

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Brown '973.

Claims 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Brown '973 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,125,468 (Coker '468).

Claims 5 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Brown '973 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,346,028 (Cassano '028).

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Brown '973 in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,842,374 (Benson '374).

The June 13, 2000 Office Action includes a statement that "if the applicant included the specific structure that enabled and supported the functions being claimed in claim 1, the applicant would more than likely be able to obtain a patent."

During the October 10, 2000 and October 14, 2000 telephone interviews, there was discussion concerning specific features that would be deemed by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to fulfill the requirements quoted in the preceding paragraph. On October 10, 2000, there was a discussion regarding a proposal to amend claim 1 to recite that the driving portion selectively drives the vehicle forward and backward, whereby the vehicle can be operated forward or backward by an operator riding thereon. There was further discussion concerning

further amending claim 1 to recite that a steering handle is movable, and on October 14, 2000, there was a discussion regarding such a proposal. On October 14, 2000, Examiner Sharma indicated that claim 1 would be allowable if it were amended to recite that a steering handle is movable from one side of the hinge point to the other, and to recite that the seat is swivelable or removable. Claim 1 as set forth above incorporates such recitation, and is therefore believed to recite what was indicated by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to be allowable subject matter. Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1, as well as claims 2, 3 and 5-13 (all of which depend from claim 1) are allowable over the applied references.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are requested.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicant's attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicant's attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,
BURR & BROWN

November 13, 2000

Date



Kevin C. Brown
Reg. No. 32,402

KCB:ks

BURR & BROWN
P.O. Box 7068
Syracuse, NY 13261-7068
Telephone: (315) 233-8300
Facsimile: (315) 233-8320

Customer No.: 25191